

North East Derbyshire District Council

Cabinet

20 June 2024

Environment Scrutiny Committee Review into becoming a 100% Plant-Based Council in the Procurement and Provision of Food

Report of Councillor C Smith, Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Committee

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer

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PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To ask Cabinet to approve the recommendations of the Environment Scrutiny Committee's review into becoming a 100% plant-based Council in the procurement and provision of food.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That, as part of the annual Leisure survey, measure the demand specific foodstuffs, and in particular for plant-based vegan food.
2. That the findings of the surveys be assessed and responded to by the Leisure team in consultation with the Portfolio Holder i.e. Do we need a new approach as a consequence of growing public demand for vegan food, and if so, what should it be?
3. That the outcome of this survey work be shared with the Environment Scrutiny Committee as appropriate, and that the Committee be informed of and consulted on any proposed changes.

Approved by the Scrutiny Chair for Environment – Cllr Caroline Smith

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

N/A

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection):

Yes

No

Details:

N/A

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing:

Yes

No

Details:

N/A

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: NEDDC: Revenue - £125,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £310,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	None
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SMT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details:

Links to Council Plan (NED) priorities, including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.

Council Plan Objective: A Great Place that cares for the Environment.

REPORT DETAILS

1 Background

- 1.1 Environment Scrutiny Committee was asked to look at this issue at the Council meeting on Monday 29 January 2024. At that meeting Council considered a motion moved and seconded by Councillor F Adlington Stringer and Councillor H Wetherall which called on the Council, in line with its Climate Change Strategy, to commit to:
1. Ensuring food and drink provided at all Council meetings and events is 100% plant-based.
 2. Prioritising plant-based menu options wherever the Council has influence, for example in leisure centres.
 3. Promoting and encouraging plant-based eating to residents through methods such as public awareness campaigns and the removal of meat and dairy advertising.
- 1.2 The Environment Scrutiny Committee complied with this request from Council at its meeting on Monday 19 February 2024. The Committee did this, in effect, by carrying out a 'Spotlight' review on the subject.
- 1.3 A briefing paper at **Appendix 1** sets out in more detail a synopsis of the review and the views expressed.

2. Details of Proposal

- 2.1 The recommendations are:
- 2.1.1 That, as part of the annual Leisure survey, measure the demand specific foodstuffs, and in particular for plant-based vegan food.
 - 2.1.2 That the findings of the surveys be assessed and responded to by the leisure team in consultation with the Portfolio Holder i.e. Do we need a new approach as a consequence of growing public demand for vegan food, and if so, what should it be?
 - 2.1.3 That the outcome of this survey work be shared with the Environments Scrutiny Committee as appropriate, and that the Committee be informed of and consulted on any proposed changes.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The review process highlighted what the Council was already doing to provide food/drink options to customers, including regularly trialling different options to see whether there was a demand for certain food types.
- 3.2 Some Committee Members supported this customer focused approach to the provision of plant-based food to those who wanted it at the Leisure Centres, while still providing non vegan food for those who did not.

- 3.3 Members did not think it appropriate that the Council prioritise plant-based menu options in the Leisure Centres.
- 3.4 The Committee recognised that over time demand for vegan, plant-based food might increase and that if it did, the Council would have to respond to any changes.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 N/A

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Briefing Note on the Environment Scrutiny Committee's review into becoming a 100% Plant-Based Council in the Procurement and Provision of Food
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet you must provide copies of the background papers)	